

Germany congratulates the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to its 20 years of entry into force.

The *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity* was adopted on 29 January 2000. Germany was among the first fifty countries to ratify the Protocol and thereby contributed to its entry into force on 11 September 2003. Germany recognises the importance of the Cartagena Protocol as the international frame setting in the field of biosafety. The Protocol is the building block for the global community that defines the common understanding of and for biosafety. As a member state of the European Union, binding genetic engineering regulations are already in place since 1990. They are in line with the Cartagena Protocol and guarantee its full implementation.

Since early times, Germany is actively engaged in implementation activities of the Cartagena Protocol. In 2008, COP MOP 4 took place in Bonn, Germany. At the same location, Germany hosted sub-working groups of the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management in 2012 and the AHTEG itself in 2014. More generally, experts from Germany contribute with their technical and scientific expertise to the ongoing discussions and developments in the areas of risk assessment and risk management, socio economic considerations, detection and identification of LMO and on the continuous improvement of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). Capacity-building activities include the organisation of the International Conference on GMO Analysis and New Genomic Techniques (March 2023, Berlin; <https://www.bfr-akademie.de/gmo2023/>). Another strong focus is brought to information-sharing. Next to constant maintenance of the national records in the BCH, complementary content related to biosafety is available in the German BCH (D-BCH; <https://biosicherheit-bch.de/BCH/EN>) and the Euginius database (<https://euginius.eu>). The latter is a joint activity of the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection (BVL) and the Dutch Food Safety Research (WFSR). It closely cooperates with the BCH.